

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22. Canceled.

23. (Currently Amended) A friction damper comprising:

a base body adapted to be capable of being attached to one of a pair of members which are displaced relative to each other;

~~a support~~ first and second supports each secured to said base body and having a through hole, said first support having ~~and~~ only one slit communicating with said through hole of said first support so that the diameter of said through hole of said first support can be reducible, said first and second supports being mutually adjacent in an axial direction;

a rod which extends through the through hole of said ~~support~~ first and second supports, is movable in ~~an the~~ the axial direction with respect to said ~~support~~ first and second supports, and is adapted to be capable of being attached to another one of the pair of members; and

a friction member which has a hollow cylindrical portion interposed between said first support and said rod in the through hole of said first support, and only one collar united with said hollow cylindrical portion, ~~and is fixed immovably with respect to the relative movement of the rod in the axial direction with respect to said base body at said collar;~~

said first and second supports between which said collar is disposed, clamping said collar so as to fix said friction member immovably with respect to relative movement of said rod in the axial direction with respect to said base body.

said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member having only one slit extending from one end face to another end face thereof in the axial direction so that the diameter of said hollow cylindrical portion can be reducible, and

~~and~~ said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member further having a mesh base material disposed on a radially outer peripheral surface side thereof and a synthetic resin-made sliding layer filling meshes of said base material and formed on one surface of said base material, ~~and~~

said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member covering a surface defining the through hole of said first support from one axial end of said first support, at a position of which said collar is united with said hollow cylindrical portion, over another axial end of said first support,

said sliding layer being disposed on radially inner peripheral surface side of said hollow cylindrical portion so as to be brought into contact with said rod slidably in the axial direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 23, further comprising:

tightening means for tightening said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member against said rod, the through hole of said support and said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member being reducible in diameter, said tightening means being adapted to reduce the diameter of said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member through the reduction in diameter of the through hole of said support to tighten said hollow cylindrical portion against said rod.

25. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 24, wherein said tightening means has a bolt threadedly engaged with said support, so as to be able to reduce the width of the slit.

26. (Currently Amended) The friction damper according to claim 24, wherein a ~~plurality of supports arranged in the axial direction are provided, and~~ said tightening means and said friction member are provided for each of said first and second supports.

27. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 23, wherein said base material comprises one of an expanded metal and a metal wire net.

28. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 23, wherein said sliding layer contains polyimide resin.

29. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 23, wherein said sliding layer contains tetrafluoroethylene resin.

30. (Currently Amended) The friction damper according to claim 23, wherein said base body includes a tubular body; one cover secured to one end portion of said tubular body and having a through hole through which said rod is passed through; and another cover secured to another end portion of said tubular body and having a fitting attached thereto for being attached to the one member, said ~~support~~ first and second supports being secured to an inner peripheral surface of said tubular body.

31. (Previously Presented) The friction damper according to claim 23, wherein said rod is formed of a solid or hollow member having a cylindrical surface on an outer peripheral surface thereof.